

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7157

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG LABCOUNS CONTACTS WITH CGT

1. HANS SCHEEL, FRG LABOR COUNSELOR, TOLD LABCOUNS THAT TO HIS SURPRISE A RECENT REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON GEORGE SEGUY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CGT, TURNED INTO A SEGUY INVITATION TO LUNCH. ONLY OTHER PARTICIPANT WAS RENE DUHAMEL, CGT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

2. MESSAGE SCHEEL RECEIVED THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION WAS THAT CGT WISHES TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH DGB AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS AND IS TAKING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COMMON MARKET, EVEN IF IT STILL CONSIDERS THE EEC A "CAPITALISTS' ORGANIZATION" IN WHICH WORKERS' INTERESTS ARE RECEIVING SECONDARY ATTENTION. WITH REGARD TO ETUC, SEGUY MADE REPEATEDLY THE POINT THAT WHEN IT COMES TO FRANCE THE ETUC MUST BE REALISTIC AND RECOGNIZE THAT WITHOUT CGT PARTICIPATION NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED CONCERNING WORKERS' INTERESTS. ACCORDINGLY, CGT RELIES ON THIS KIND OF REALISM TO BRING ABOUT ITS EVENTUAL
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ADMISSION INTO ETUC.

3. SCHEEL SAYS THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY SEGUY'S WARM PERSONALITY AND QUICK MIND. HE WAS UNEASY AND SHY AT THE BEGINNING AND RELIED ON DUHAMEL TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, HE TOOK OVER AND FROM THERE ON DUHAMEL SPOKE VERY LITTLE.

4. COMMENT: CONTACTS WITH CGT HAD BEEN INITIATED IN 1970 BY SCHEEL'S PREDECESSOR SAHRHOLZ. SCHEEL SAYS THAT HE HAS NOT ONLY HIS AMBASSADOR'S AND BONN'S SUPPORT IN MAINTAINING THESE CONTACTS FOR FIRST-HAND INFORMATION AND BETTER ASSESSMENT OF CGT'S POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES, BUT THAT THE DGB AS WELL SHARES THIS VIEW.
RUSH

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